

REMARKS

Claims 30-36, 39-41, 54-58, 60-69, 73-79, 81-91, 94-100 and 102-117 are pending in the application. Claims 39-41, 54-58, 61, 62, 74-79, 82, 83, 95-100, 103, 104, 116, and 117 have been previously withdrawn from consideration after an election of species by the applicant. Claims 84-91, 94, 102, and 105-115 are rejected. Claims 30-36, 60, 63-69, and 73 have been allowed.

Independent claims 30, 63, 84, and 108 and dependent claims 86, 87, 88, 89, 110, 111, 113, and 114 are amended herein. All of the currently examined and previously withdrawn dependent claims depend from now allowable base claims and are now allowable. No new matter is added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The objected to Claim 81 is amended to be dependent on Claim 63 rather than canceled Claim 70.

The specification is objected to as failing to comply with the written requirement for recitation of a “sealed attachment” appearing in independent claim 84 and claims 98 - 100 dependent thereon. Applicants respectfully disagree with this objection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this case, the term “sealed” is deleted from pending claim 84 to obviate this objection, and the Examiner is authorized to change “sealed attachment” to --attachment-- in Claims 98-100 that may be reintroduced and allowed upon allowance of the independent claim 84.

The specification is also objected to as failing to comply with the written requirement for recitation of a “luminal angle” appearing in independent claim 84 and claims dependent thereon. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection, but wish to expedite prosecution of this case. The claims reciting “luminal angle” have been amended accordingly. The “angle of transition” is recited expressly in the specification at page 6, lines 20-24, and therefore this objection is obviated.

The allowance of Claims 30-36, 60, 63-69, and 73 is appreciated. The rejected independent Claims 84 and 108 are amended herein consistently with applicant’s attempts to expedite prosecution. Particularly, the term “about 30 degrees” is changed to “30 degrees”.

Informalities in grammar and terminology affecting claim limitations were discovered in the process of rewriting the entire set of pending claims. The informalities are addressed in the above-presented amendments to Claims 30, 63, 84, 108, and 111. The reasons for the changes are believed to be self-evident.

The amendments to the claims and remarks found herein were provided in a response dated November 18, 2004. The amended claims and remarks are believed to have placed the application in condition for allowance. However, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed in this case on March 4, 2005, over three months after applicant's response, and after the six month date following the Final Rejection (February 18, 2005).

The Notice of Abandonment stated the amendment "does not constitute a proper reply under 37 C[RF].F.R. 1.113 (a) to the final rejection." No explanation is given as to why the amendment does not place this case in condition for allowance.


Applicants herein provide: A petition to revive this case for unintentional abandonment, a petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Final Rejection Dated August 18, 2004, and an RCE.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and the withdrawn claims is respectfully requested. In the case the Examiner does not feel the claims in this application are ready for allowance, a telephone interview is hereby respectfully requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any additional fee is required for the entry of this amendment, including any extensions of time, applicants herein petition for such extension and authorize that such fee be charged to Deposit account No. 13-2546. If any additional fee is required in connection with the timely entry of these papers, please charge such fee to Deposit account No. 13-2546.

Date: May 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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